

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-17, 19 and 21-28 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application as between:

Group I, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-16 and 28, drawn to a method of interaction analysis; and

Group II, claims 17, 19 and 21-27, drawn to a chromatography apparatus.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-16 and 28.

According to Rule 13.2, the requirement for unity of invention “shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression ‘special technical features’ shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.”

The Examiner alleges that Norman (US 5,508,204) teaches the features common to the method claims of Group I and the apparatus claims of Group II. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement of the “special technical feature” which is common to all claims and amounts to a contribution over the prior art is that the apparatus and the method are for analyzing the interaction of the substances in the first solution with the substances in the second solution. This is in distinction to the method and apparatus of Norman which are designed to keep the substances from the first solution discrete from the substances in the second solution, see column 2, line 16 of Norman.

As such, there is unity of invention. Rejoinder of Groups I and II is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq., Reg.

No. 43,575, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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